

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 IO-14 ACDA-19 NIC-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 /159 W

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O R 031548Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9526

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USCINCEUR

CINCLANT

DIA

COMUSFORAZ

USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T LISBON 1764

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PO

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE POLITICAL SITUATION

REF: STATE 090895

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SUMMARY: ELEMENTS NECESSARY FOR CONFIDENT POLITICAL

PROGNOSIS HAVE NOT YET APPEARED. PRESENT SITUATION CHARACTERIZED BY POWER GRABS BY LEFTIST FORCES WHICH COULD PUT JUNTA OFF BALANCE, AND BY VERY FAST POLITICAL MANEUVERING BY SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS WHICH MAKE STATEMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORT OF MORE MODERATE FORCES APPEAR PAINFULLY SLOW AND SOMETIMES INSIGNIFICANT. SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS PREDOMINATE IN NEWS MEDIA AND IN ACTIVE POLITICAL ROLES AT PRESENT. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT (PG), WHICH EXPECTED MOMENTARILY, WILL INDICATE TONE AND DIRECTION OF EVENTS OVER NEXT YEAR PROVIDED JUNTA AND PG REINFORCE THEIR POLITICAL INITIATIVE. END SUMMARY.

1. ACTIVITY AND ATTENDANT PUBLICITY OF WELL ORGANIZED, BOLD LEFTISTS OF SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST PERSUASION HAS FAR SURPASSED DEGREE OF PUBLIC FOLLOWING OR SYMPATHY WITHIN JUNTA THAT THE LEFT POSSESSES. FORCES IN CENTER, NOTABLY SEDES, MODERATES AND VARIOUS LIBERAL GROUPS HAVE DONE NOTHING SPECTACULAR BUT ARE EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE FORMATION OF NEW POLITICAL PARTY SOON. JUNTA CONTINUES TO HOLD WIDE-RANGING CONSULTATIONS WITHOUT REVEALING ITS INTENTIONS AS TO COMPOSITION OF NEW PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND JUNTA WILL CONTROL. NOT UNTIL PG IS ANNOUNCED WILL WE BE ABLE TO DIAGNOSE CHARACTER OF BODY POLITIC.

2. LEFT WING ACTIVISTS HAVE KEPT JUNTA REACTING TO EVENTS RATHER THAN SHAPING THEM BY TAKING OVER SINDICATES, NEWSPAPERS, AND WIDE RANGE OF OTHER INSTITUTIONS, PROTESTING ALL THE WHILE THAT THEY ARE ACTING TO ENSURE ADHERENCE TO PRINCIPLES OF JUNTA. WHILE JUNTA CONTINUES TO WARN AGAINST PRECIPITOUS ACTIONS WHICH COULD VIOLATE INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS AND LEAD TO CHAOS, THESE UNSETTLING ACTIVITIES CONTINUE. APPARENT HOPE OF LEFT IS TO ENTRENCH ITSELF WHEREVER POSSIBLE PRIOR TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW GOVERNMENT.

3. CONSERVATIVE VOICES ARE SILENT AND MODERATE ONES ARE SOFT AT MOMENT. THERE HAS BEEN NO PHYSICAL VIOLENCE OF CONSEQUENCE THAT WE KNOW OF, BUT SEVERAL SYNDICATES, NEWSPAPERS, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING NATIONAL AIRLINE TAP AND MINISTRY OF LABOR, HAVE HAD MANAGEMENT FORCED OUT BY EMPLOYEES WHO SUBSEQUENTLY

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OBTAINED ACQUIESCENCE OF JUNTA. THIS INSTITUTIONAL HIGHJACKING IS ATTRIBUTABLE NOT ONLY TO RANK-AND-FILE RESENTMENT OF SYMBOLS OF OLD ORDER, BUT ALSO TO EXCELLENT ORGANIZATION, DETERMINATION AND DARING BY MILITANTS ON THE LEFT. THUS FAR JUNTA HAS ACQUIESCED IN OR SIMPLY TONED DOWN LEFT-WING ACTIVITIES.

4. SPECULATION NATURALLY CENTERS ON NEW GOVERNMENT, WHICH GENERAL SPINOLA IS EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE AT PRESS

CONFERENCE SOON. BIG ISSUES FOR JUNTA ARE (A) WHETHER TO
INCLUDE COMMUNISTS IN PG, (B) WHETHER EVEN THE MORE LIBERAL
MEMBERS OF OLD REGIME COULD BE ACCEPTABLE CHOICES. SOME
FEEL THE JUNTA COULD AVOID THESE TOUGH QUESTIONS BY NAMING
GOVERNMENT OF NON-POLITICAL TECHNOCRATS, BUT WE BELIEVE JUNTA
WILL BRING IN MAJOR POLITICAL FIGURES. THERE IS INTENSE
SPECULATION THAT JUNTA WILL NAME MARIO SOARES FOREIGN MINISTER
(HE HAS BEEN ACTING LIKE ONE OVER PAST FEW DAYS AND IS PERHAPS
ONLY PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST WELL KNOWN OVERSEAS). FORMER LIBERAL
DEPUTIES, INCLUDING SA CARNEIRO AND MILLER GUERRA, ARE FREQUENTLY
MENTIONED AS CABINET POSSIBILITIES, AS ARE TECHNOCRATS
ROGERIO MARTINS AND JOAO SALGUEIRO. SOCIALIST LEADER
PEREIRA DE MOURA IS VERY MUCH IN EVIDENCE AND THERE IS
SPECULATION HE TOO WILL BE GIVEN CABINET JOB. EARLIER
SPECULATION THAT SOME OF LIBERALS FROM CAETANO REGIME WOULD
BE RETAINED HAS NOW PETERED OUT. SOME BELIEVE THAT JUNTA
MUST INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE PROMINENT COMMUNIST IN PG IF IT
SELECTS "POLITICAL" AS OPPOSED TO "TECHNOCRAT" SLATE.
COMMUNIST WRITER JOSE TENGARRINHA IS MENTIONED AS POSSIBILITY,
BUT WE DO NOT RULE OUT PCP SEC GEN ALVARO CUNHAL HIMSELF.
JUNTA MAY BELIEVE IT CAN BUY GOOD BEHAVIOR FROM PCP IN
EXCHANGE FOR CABINET POST. WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, FORESEE
ROLE IN GOVERNMENT FOR VIOLENT MRPP REVOLUTIONARIES OR
RIGHT WING FIGURES L
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